



A GREAT MYSTERY

Andrew King, an elder at Outreach Restoration Branch

816-255-5686

Andrew.king.87@outlook.com

Table of Contents

Light and Truth.....	3
A Great Mystery, the Record of Heaven.....	6
It is sown in Dishonor, It is raised in Glory.....	10
Life after Death	15
The state of the Soul between Death and the Resurrection	16
Final Judgment.....	18
The Mystery is Christ in You.....	21

Light and Truth

In the twenty-fifth chapter of Proverbs, King Solomon wrote, “It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.¹” Contained within this verse is a great mystery and yet a profound truth, as God has hidden Himself and revealed Himself at the same time in order to invite the children of men to seek for Him and to press into His Kingdom so that they might receive the riches of eternity.

It is important to understand that God, the greatest of all, knows the strengths and weaknesses of men, particularly that while some individuals desire the things of the world, others hunger and thirst for the truth. And yet truth cannot be obtained just for the wanting but must be acquired even as the Son of Man did, who “received not of the fullness at the first, but continued from grace to grace, until He received a fullness.²” For the Lord Jesus said, “Intelligence, or the *light of truth*, was not created or made, neither indeed can be. All truth is independent in that sphere in which God has placed it, *to act for itself*, as all intelligence also, otherwise there is no existence. Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man, because that which was from the beginning is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive not the light. And every man whose spirit receiveth not the light is under condemnation, for man is spirit.³”

In order for the children of men to obtain the truth they must first come unto the light, which light is the Gospel of Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God who was from the beginning. For the Gospel, or the good news of Christ, is the word and voice of God unto salvation, and “the word of the Lord is truth, and whatsoever is truth is light, and whatsoever is light is Spirit, even the Spirit of Jesus Christ; and the Spirit *giveth light* to every man that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit; and everyone that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit, cometh unto God, even the Father.⁴”

This light and Spirit of Christ is the same which was from the beginning by which the worlds were made as God said, “whatsoever I have created by the word of my power, which is the power of my Spirit; for by the power of my Spirit, created I them; yea, all things both spiritual and temporal: firstly spiritual, secondly temporal, which is the beginning of my work; and again, firstly temporal, and secondly spiritual, which is the last of my work.⁵” It is by this light and power that all things were made, including the souls of the children of men who “were also in the beginning with the Father,⁶” and “Every spirit of man was innocent in the beginning, and God having redeemed man from the fall, men became again in their infant state, innocent before God.⁷”

¹ Proverbs 25:2

² DC 90:2a

³ DC 90:5a-d

⁴ DC 83:7b-d

⁵ DC 28:8c-d

⁶ DC 90:4b

⁷ DC 90:6b

In the beginning, the spirits of men were with the light and were free from guilt and sin for the Lamb was slain from the foundation of the world. However, every spirit of man was also free of joy, “for they knew no misery; doing no good, for they knew no sin...wherefore, if it should be one body,” as there was no opposition at the first, “it must needs remain as dead, having no life, neither death nor corruption, nor incorruption, happiness nor misery, neither sense nor insensibility. Wherefore, it must needs have been created for a thing of *nought*; wherefore, there would have been no purpose in the end of its creation. Wherefore, this thing must needs destroy the wisdom of God, and his eternal purposes; and also, the power, and the mercy, and the justice of God. And if ye shall say there is no law, ye shall also say there is no sin. And if ye shall say there is no sin, ye shall also say there is no righteousness. And if there be no righteousness, there be no happiness. And if there be no righteousness nor happiness, there be no punishment nor misery. And if these things are not, there is no God. And if there is no God, *we are not*, neither the earth, for there could have been no creation of things, neither to act nor to be acted upon; wherefore, all things must have vanished away.⁸”

But “there is a God, and he hath created all things, both the heavens and the earth, and all things that in them is; both things to act, and things to be acted upon; and to bring about His eternal purposes in the end of man, after He had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was *an opposition*; even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter; wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man, that he should act for himself. Wherefore, man could not act for himself, save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other.⁹”

Thus in order for opposition to enter into creation, “that wicked one cometh and taketh away light and truth, through disobedience, from the children of men...Wherefore, it came to pass, that the Devil tempted Adam and he partook the forbidden fruit, and transgressed the commandment, wherein he became *subject* to the will of the Devil, *because* he yielded unto temptation; wherefore, I the Lord God caused that he should be cast out from the garden of Eden, from my presence, *because* of his transgression: wherein he became spiritually dead, which is the *first death*, even that same death, which is the last death, which is spiritual, which shall be pronounced upon the wicked when I shall say, Depart ye cursed. But, behold, I say unto you, that I, the Lord God, gave unto Adam and unto his seed, that they should not die as to the temporal death, until I, the Lord God, should send forth angels to declare unto them *repentance and redemption* through faith on the name of mine only begotten Son; and thus did I, the Lord God, appoint unto man the days of his probation; that by his natural death, he might be raised in immortality unto eternal life, even as many as would believe, and they that believed not, unto eternal damnation; for they can not be redeemed from their spiritual fall, because they repent not, for they will love darkness rather than light, and their deeds are evil, and they receive their wages of whom they list to obey.¹⁰”

⁸ 2 Nephi 1:113 and 83-93

⁹ 2 Nephi 1:95-100

¹⁰ DC 90:6c and DC 28:11-12

The spirits of men, who were created innocent in the light of Christ, were separated from the presence of God, and thereby the light, “and were made partakers of misery and woe¹¹” because of transgression, and thus they were born into a temporal world that is void of the Spirit and is covered in darkness. However, all was not finished, for the Lord God Almighty, who is full of mercy and grace, might and dominion, honor and power and great glory, gave His Only Begotten Son so that mankind might receive the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, which is the only name under heaven whereby man might be saved. “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved. How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have *not heard*? And how shall they hear *without a preacher*? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things! So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.¹²”

Therefore the Son of God, even Jesus the Christ who knew no sin, was made sin for us and took upon Him the form of a servant and was made in the likeness of man so “that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.¹³” What was once God became man in order that man might become the sons and daughters of God. And thus light entered into the world as John the Baptist testified, “I saw His glory that He was in the beginning before the world was; therefore, in the beginning the Word was; for He was the Word, even the messenger of salvation, the light and the Redeemer of the world; the Spirit of truth, who came into the world because the world was made by Him; and in Him was the life of men and the light of men. The worlds were made by Him. Men were made by Him. All things were made by Him, and through Him, and of Him. And I, John, bear record that I beheld His glory, as the glory of the Only Begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth; even the Spirit of truth which came and dwelt in the flesh, and dwelt among us.¹⁴”

It is because of Jesus Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life, that mankind might know the manner in which to enter into the Kingdom of God so that they might receive the Kingdom of Heaven. As the Lord Jesus said, “I am come a light into the world, that whosoever *believeth* on me should not abide in darkness...As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world...If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world. But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him...The light shineth in darkness, and the darkness comprehendeth it not; nevertheless, the day shall come when you shall comprehend even God; being quickened in Him, and by Him. Then shall ye know that ye have seen me, that I am, and that I am the true light that *is in you*, and that you are *in me*, otherwise ye *could not abound*.¹⁵”

While the light was taken away from the children of men through disobedience, it shines in the world because of the love of God. “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give *the light* of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ...Who being the *brightness* of His [God’s] glory, and the *express image* of His person, and upholding all things

¹¹ Genesis 6:49

¹² Romans 10:13-16

¹³ 2 Corinthians 5:21

¹⁴ DC 90:1d-g

¹⁵ John 12:46, John 9:5, John 11:9-10, and DC 85:12e-f

by the word of His power.¹⁶ If men will therefore embrace the truth and believe in the Son of God, all darkness will flee away, as the psalmists wrote, “For thou wilt light my candle; the Lord my God will enlighten my darkness...For with thee is the fountain of life; in thy light shall we see light.¹⁷”

How then can mankind stumble in the dark when so much light and so many clouds of witnesses have been given through the testimony of Jesus Christ? “This then is the message which we have heard of Him [Jesus Christ], and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all...That which is of God is light, and he that receiveth light and continueth in God, receiveth more light, and that light groweth brighter and brighter, until the perfect day. And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you...Wherefore, now after I have spoken these words, if ye can not understand them, it will be because ye ask not, neither do ye knock; wherefore, ye are not brought into the light, but must perish in the dark.¹⁸”

A Great Mystery, the Record of Heaven

“It is said in the Old Testament by one of the wise men that it is the glory of God to conceal a thing. Now if it takes glory or intelligence to conceal it, what does it take to find it?¹⁹” If man does not wish to perish in the dark, how does he find the light of life? While the Gospel helps to illuminate the life of Christ, the Scriptures alone do not bring salvation, as Jesus said, “Search the Scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life; and they are they which testify of me.²⁰” Instead, eternal life, which is the glory and gift of God, is only received through faith and repentance on Jesus Christ, thus men are called to “come unto the Holy One of Israel, and feast upon that which perisheth not, neither can be corrupted, and let your soul delight in fatness...Come, my brethren, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters; and he that hath no money, come buy and eat; yea, come buy wine and milk without money and without price.²¹”

The only true way to walk in the light of Christ is to discover “the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, but now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God...Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to His saints; to whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.²²” For concealed inside the soul of every son of Adam and every daughter of Eve is the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, and it is through this selfsame Spirit that every man and woman is given the breath of life. “And I, the Lord God, formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul; the first flesh upon the earth, the first man also;

¹⁶ 2 Corinthians 4:6 and Hebrews 1:3

¹⁷ Psalms 18:28 and 36:9

¹⁸ 1 John 1:5, DC 50:6a-b, and 2 Nephi 14:5

¹⁹ Apostle Arthur Oakman

²⁰ John 5:40

²¹ 2 Nephi 6:101-102 and 99

²² Romans 16:25-26 and Colossians 1:26-27

nevertheless, all things were before created, but *spiritually* were they created and made, according to my word.²³

“For behold, the Spirit of Christ is given to *every man*, that they may know good from evil...and the Spirit giveth light to *every man* that cometh into the world; and the Spirit enlighteneth every man through the world, that hearkeneth to the voice of the Spirit.²⁴” To unlock the mystery which has been hid from the ages is to discover the Son of God within the souls of men by the power of the Holy Ghost, which has been “given to abide in you, the record of heaven, the Comforter, the peaceable things of immortal glory, the truth of all things, that which quickeneth all things which maketh alive all things, that which knoweth all things, and hath all power according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice and judgment.²⁵” It is by and through the power of the Spirit of God that all things consist and have being, and it is through this selfsame power that the children of men can discover the light of Jesus Christ which abides within their souls, growing brighter and brighter until the perfect day when we “in the unity of the faith, all come to the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.²⁶”

There exists the power to reproduce the character of the Lord Jesus within the heart, mind, and soul of every man and woman through faith and obedience. For within them abides the Record of Heaven, or in other words the record of righteousness and truth, which can only be made manifest through the testimony of Christ by the power of the Spirit. “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His. And if Christ be in you, though the body shall die because of sin, yet the Spirit is life, because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead, dwelleth in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.²⁷”

During His ministry on the earth, Jesus explained to the disciples that “it is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you. And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment; of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and they see me no more; of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth; for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak; and He will show you things to come. He shall glorify me; for He shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you.²⁸”

In order that the disciples would not rely upon Jesus in the flesh, it was expedient that He should be crucified, resurrected, and ascend unto heaven so that the disciples would realize that the Holy Ghost already existed within them, otherwise they could not abound, and so that they would also receive a greater portion of the Spirit of Truth. “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of

²³ Genesis 2:8-9

²⁴ Moroni 7:14 and DC 83:7b-c

²⁵ Genesis 6:64

²⁶ Ephesians 4:13

²⁷ Romans 8:9-11

²⁸ John 16:7-14

God dwelleth in you? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye the separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.²⁹

The testimony of the Holy Messiah, when fully conceived within the souls of men, brings about a changed and repentant heart, which is the only condition whereby mankind can be received unto glory and eternal life. In order for this testimony to dawn in the hearts of men, they must put off the chains that would bind them fast, lay aside every weight of sin, and come unto the Holy One of Israel who is mighty and worthy to save. And this they must do by searching diligently in the light that already abides within them, which is the Record of Heaven, for “that which is of God is light, and he that receiveth light and continueth in God, receiveth more light, and that light groweth brighter and brighter, until the perfect day. And again, verily I say unto you, and I say it that you may know the truth, that you may chase darkness from among you.³⁰”

God created all things through the word of His power, which is the power of His Spirit, and this power is present inside every soul to profit withal for all those who will hunger and thirst for truth. The Master told the Samaritan woman at the well, “Whosoever shall drink of this well, shall thirst again; but whosoever drinketh of the water which I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.³¹” There is a source of life and truth which already exists within every man and woman, and this mystery can only be revealed by taking the Holy Ghost as our guide through obedience to the commandments of God.

This spiritual truth is enlightened by the temporal likenesses which God has created. “And, behold, all things have their likeness; and all things are created and made to bear record of me; both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath, all things bear record of me.³²” Located 400 miles beneath the Earth’s crust is a vast reservoir of water capable of filling the Earth’s oceans three times over, which explains the large amount of water on the Earth’s surface which is pushed upward from below.³³ While the sun provides energy and power through its perpetual sacrifice in order to create life, every resource that is needed to sustain it already exists within and beneath the Earth. The same is true of man, for it is through mankind’s response to Christ’s great and eternal sacrifice that they might receive salvation, while it is by the power of the Holy Ghost that the children of men are sealed unto eternal life.

²⁹ 1 Corinthians 3:16 and 2 Corinthians 6:16-18

³⁰ DC 50:6a-b

³¹ John 4:15-16

³² Genesis 6:66

³³ Jenna Iacurci, “Vast Underwater Ocean Trapped Beneath Earth’s Crust,” Nature World News (June 13, 2014), <http://www.natureworldnews.com/articles/7560/20140613/vast-underwater-ocean-trapped-beneath-earths-crust.htm>.

Jesus said, “If any man thirst, let him *come unto me*, and drink. He that *believeth on me*, as the Scripture hath said, *out of* his belly shall flow rivers of *living water*. (But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive; for the Holy Ghost was promised *unto them who believe*, after that Jesus was glorified.)³⁴” The promise of salvation is a gift which already resides within every soul, but the condition to receive it is based on faith unto repentance. “Behold, here is the agency of man, and here is the condemnation of man, because that which was from the beginning is plainly manifest unto them, and they receive *not the light*. And every man whose spirit receiveth not the light *is under condemnation*, for man is spirit.³⁵” “The Lord surely should come to redeem His people; but that He should not come to redeem them *in* their sins, but to redeem them *from* their sins. And He hath power given unto Him from the Father, to redeem them from their sins, *because of repentance*; therefore He hath sent His angels to declare the tidings of the conditions of repentance, which bringeth unto the power of the Redeemer, unto the salvation of their souls.³⁶”

To unveil the mystery of Christ within our soul, mankind must first exercise their agency and choose to believe on the Son of God by coming down into the waters of baptism with real intent and thus sowing the first-fruits of repentance. Thus the light of the Spirit of Christ within mankind begins to shine brighter and brighter while the well which springs forth unto everlasting life begins to grow deeper and deeper. “And the first-fruits of repentance is baptism; and baptism cometh by faith, unto the fulfilling the commandments; and the fulfilling the commandments bringeth remission of sins; and the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart, cometh the *visitation* of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter *filleth* with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall *dwell with God*.³⁷”

The mysteries of God are “only to be seen and understood by the power of the Holy Spirit, which God bestows on those who *love Him* and *purify* themselves before Him; to whom He grants this privilege of seeing and knowing for themselves; that through the power and manifestation of the Spirit, while in the flesh, they may be able *to bear His presence* in the world of glory.³⁸” The Lord God has promised the children of men will always have His Spirit to be with them *if* they will take the name of His Son upon them and keep His commandments, and it is by the reception of the Holy Ghost that mankind is sanctified and made pure. By keeping the commandments of God, mankind receives the light of the Holy Ghost so that they can chase darkness from among them and discover the Spirit of Christ that is in them, and thus receive the greatest gift of all, the gift of eternal life. And how can men and women receive such a gift without first discovering the testimony of Jesus within, the hope of glory? “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and *the life*: no man cometh unto the Father, *but by me*.³⁹”

³⁴ John 7:37-39

³⁵ DC 90:5c-d

³⁶ Helaman 2:72-73

³⁷ Moroni 8:29

³⁸ DC 76:8b-c

³⁹ John 14:6

It is sown in Dishonor, It is raised in Glory

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men *love darkness* rather than light, because their deeds are evil. For every one who doeth evil *hateth* the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved. But he who *loveth* truth, *cometh* to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest. And he who *obeyeth* the truth, the works which he doeth they are of God.⁴⁰” In order to discover the mystery of Christ, mankind must come unto the light of life, which is Jesus Christ, by manifesting all their deeds before Him and forsaking all ungodliness and every worldly lust. “Behold, he who has repented of his sins, the same is forgiven, and I, the Lord, remembereth them *no more*. By this ye may know if a man repenteth of his sins. Behold, he will *confess them* and *forsake them*.⁴¹”

Although the children of men may enter into the Kingdom of God through the baptism of the water and the Spirit, if they do not press forward with a perfect brightness of hope, a steadfastness in Christ, a love of God and of all men, and endure to the end, they cannot be received unto Celestial Glory. Jesus said, “Therefore nothing entereth into His rest, save it be those who have washed their garments in my blood, because of their faith, and the repentance of all their sins, and their faithfulness *unto the end*. Now this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and *come unto me* and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified *by the reception* of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at the last day.⁴²” And how is it that the Holy Ghost is received save it be by keeping the commandments of God and offering a broken heart and a contrite spirit unto the Lord of Hosts?

Without the fullness of the Spirit of God, which cometh by fulfilling the commandments, mankind cannot be clothed with the robes of salvation and enter into the Kingdom of Heaven. Fulfilling the commandments changes the heart of man from one that is selfish and prideful, to one that is humble and full of love. Thus men and women become pure even as Jesus is pure and are made after His image and likeness. “My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ *be formed in you*...For though He was crucified through weakness, yet He lived by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but we shall *live with Him* by the power of God toward you. Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ *is in you*, except ye be reprobates? But I trust that ye shall know that we are not reprobates.⁴³”

It is through the infinite atonement of the Only Begotten that mankind are resurrected and redeemed from the band of death, which gift is offered to every man, both male and female, that is born into the world. And therefore a seed of light and life is planted within every soul, but the seed can only grow and flourish according to the conditions of the heart. “Now if ye *give place*, that a seed may be planted in your heart, behold, if it be a true seed, or a good seed, if ye do not cast it out by your unbelief, that ye will resist the Spirit of the Lord, behold, it will begin to *swell within your breasts*; and when you feel those swelling motions, ye will begin to say within yourselves, It must needs be that this is a good

⁴⁰ John 3:19-22

⁴¹ DC 59:9c-d

⁴² 3 Nephi 12:32-33

⁴³ Galatians 4:19 and 2 Corinthians 13:4-6

seed...Yea; because it is light; and whatsoever is light, is good, because it is discernible; therefore ye must know that it is good.⁴⁴”

“And behold, as the tree beginneth to grow, ye will say, let us *nourish* it with *great care*, that it may get root, that it may grow up and bring forth fruit unto us. And now behold, if ye *nourish* it with much care, it will get root, and grow up, and bring forth fruit. But if ye *neglect* the tree, and take no thought for its nourishment, behold, it will not get any root; and when the heat of the sun cometh and scorcheth it, because it hath no root, it withers away, and ye pluck it up and cast it out. Now this is not because the seed was not good, neither is it because the fruit thereof would not be desirable. But it is because your ground is barren, and ye will not nourish the tree; therefore ye can not have the fruit thereof. And thus it is if ye will not nourish the word, looking forward with an eye of faith to the fruit thereof, ye can never pluck of the fruit of the *tree of life*.⁴⁵”

“But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to grow, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold, it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life; and because of your diligence, and your faith, and your patience with the word, in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure; and ye shall feast upon this fruit, even until ye are filled, that ye hunger not, neither shall ye thirst. Then my brethren ye shall *reap* the rewards of your faith, and your diligence, and patience, and long suffering, waiting for the tree to bring forth fruit unto you.⁴⁶”

Although the spirit of man was created innocent in the beginning, once sin was conceived through transgression, the children of men were separated from the light of God and were unable to enter again into His presence save it be through atonement. To reclaim mankind from this spiritual death, the Lord God planted the seed of life, the Record of Heaven even the Holy Ghost, within each and every soul so that men might be resurrected and restored to that which they were willing to receive. And in order for life to be given to this seed, God sent Jesus Christ, who was crucified and lifted up upon the cross so that He might draw all men unto Him and thus Jesus said “that as I have been lifted up by men, even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil.⁴⁷” Not only does the life of Christ illuminate the seed within, and therefore demonstrates what man might become through obedience and love, but it also grants life unto the seed in order to raise men from corruption by the power of the Spirit.

“Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again...What and if ye shall see the Son of Man ascend up where He was before? It is the Spirit that quickeneth; the *flesh profiteth nothing*; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are

⁴⁴ Alma 16:153-154 and 162

⁴⁵ Alma 16:164-169

⁴⁶ Alma 16:170-173

⁴⁷ 3 Nephi 12:27

life.⁴⁸ It is by the power of the well which is already within, or in other words by the power of the Holy Ghost, that the children of men are resurrected to either eternal life or everlasting death.

“Wherefore, redemption cometh in and through the holy Messiah: for He is full of grace and truth. Behold, He offereth Himself a sacrifice for sin, to answer the ends of the law, unto all those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit; and unto none else can the ends of the law be answered. Wherefore, how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth, that they may know that there is no flesh that can dwell in the presence of God, save it be through the merits, and mercy, and grace of the holy Messiah, who layeth down His life according to the flesh, and taketh it again by the *power of the Spirit*, that He may bring to pass the *resurrection of the dead*, being the first that should rise. Wherefore, He is the first fruits unto God, inasmuch as He shall make intercession for all the children of men; and they that believe in Him, shall be saved. And because of the intercession for all, all men come unto God; wherefore, they stand in the presence of Him, to be judged of Him, according to the truth and holiness which is in Him.⁴⁹”

For men to be able to receive a fullness of joy, opposition entered into the world, even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life, and thereby the innocence of man was corrupted through disobedience. Nonetheless, God, in His matchless mercy and grace, bestowed within every soul the promise of salvation according to their response to the great light of Jesus Christ and the pure love of God. And just as earthquakes, volcanoes, and the tectonic plates demonstrate the inner workings of the Earth, the actions, thoughts, and words of mankind help to illuminate their inward response to the testimony of the Lord Jesus within their soul. “Be not deceived; God is not mocked; for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his *flesh* shall of the flesh reap *corruption*; but he that soweth to the *Spirit* shall of the Spirit reap *life everlasting*. And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.⁵⁰”

The Almighty God, knowing that mankind could not understand His love without opposition and that opposition would naturally bring a separation from the light, and knowing the truth that man could not receive a fullness of joy unless their body and spirit were inseparably connected, instituted His great plan of happiness from the beginning by giving every soul the seed of life, which is the Holy Ghost by which all things are made alive according to the power of Christ. Thus Jesus laid down His life from the foundation of the world and took upon Him the form of a servant so that mankind might see the light and truth within them, in particular that the seed of life and gift of salvation already resides within. And so that the children of men might understand the love of God in the face of Jesus Christ and respond to His infinite sacrifice by learning what manner of men we ought to be, even as Christ is.

It is through this response that the seed of life is nourished by faith, repentance, obedience, diligence, and long-suffering, unto everlasting life. And thus mankind receives their eternal body according to the principles of the law by which they lived, either to that of Celestial, Terrestrial, Telesial, or No Glory. For it is by the law that the children of men are sanctified.

⁴⁸ John 10:17-18 and John 6:62-63

⁴⁹ 2 Nephi 1:71-79

⁵⁰ Galatians 6:7-9

“And again, verily I say unto you, that which is governed by law, is also preserved by law, and perfected and sanctified by the same. That which breaketh a law, and abideth not by law, but seeketh to become a law unto itself, and willet to abide in sin, and altogether abideth in sin, *can not* be sanctified by law, neither by mercy, justice, or judgment; therefore, they must remain filthy still. All kingdoms have a law given: and there are many kingdoms; for there is no space in the which there is no kingdom; and there is no kingdom in which there is no space, either a greater or lesser kingdom. And unto every kingdom is given a law; and unto every law there are certain bounds also, and conditions.⁵¹”

“All beings who abide not in those conditions, are not justified; for intelligence *cleaveth* unto intelligence; wisdom *receiveth* wisdom; truth *embraceth* truth; virtue *loveth* virtue; light *cleaveth* unto light; mercy hath compassion on mercy, and claimeth her own; justice continueth its course, and claimeth its own; judgment goeth before the face of Him who sitteth upon the throne, and governeth and executeth all things: He comprehendeth all things, and all things are before Him, and all things are round about Him; and He is above all things, and in all things, and is through all things, and is round about all things: and all things are by Him, and of Him; even God, for ever and ever.⁵²”

If the children of men will live by the law of the Celestial Kingdom, not only will they be sanctified by the same but they will also be resurrected and restored to the same. “But some man will say, how are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come? Thou fool, that which thou sowest is not quickened, except it die; and that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body which shall be, but grain, it may be of wheat, or some other; but God giveth it a body as it hath pleased Him, and to every seed his own body. All flesh is not the same flesh; but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds. Also celestial bodies, and bodies terrestrial, and bodies telestial; but the glory of the celestial, one; and the terrestrial, another; and the telestial, another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.⁵³”

To live by the principles of the Celestial Kingdom, mankind must love their brethren as Christ loves them and choose God, their Heavenly Father. In so doing, the Spirit of Jesus Christ which abides within their soul will cleave unto eternal life with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. “And this is His [God’s] commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment. And he that keepeth His commandments dwelleth in Him, and He in him. And hereby we know that He abideth in us, *by the Spirit* which He hath given us...If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and His love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in Him, and He in us, *because* He hath given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God, God dwelleth in him,

⁵¹ DC 85:8-9

⁵² DC 85:10

⁵³ 1 Corinthians 15:35-44

and *he in God*. And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love *dwelleth in God*, and God in him. Herein is our love made *perfect*, that we may have *boldness* in the day of judgment...Being confident of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work *in you* will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.⁵⁴

Thus “ye who are quickened by a portion of the celestial glory, shall then receive of the same, *even a fullness*; and they who are quickened by a portion of the terrestrial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness: and also they who are quickened by a portion of the telestial glory, shall then receive of the same, even a fullness: and they who remain shall also be quickened; nevertheless, they shall return again to their own place, to enjoy that which they are willing to receive, because they were not willing to enjoy that which they *might have* received.⁵⁵” Do men cleave unto the things of the world or unto the things of God? If mankind is desirous to receive Celestial glory, then they must cast away their Terrestrial and Telestial longings, for Celestial cleaves unto Celestial and light cleaves unto light, and both love their own.

If men will seek for the glory of God which is hidden within them, *then* “I would exhort you, that ye would come unto Christ, and lay hold upon every good gift and touch not the evil gift, nor the unclean thing...Yea, come unto Christ, and be *perfected in Him*, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not His power, then are ye *sanctified in Christ* by the *grace* of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.⁵⁶”

If the children of men will chose to respond with the pure love of Jesus Christ to any situation in which they might find themselves in, then their eye will be single to the glory of God and their whole body shall be full of light. For man to have their eye single to God is to recognize the mystery that has been hid from the ages, “which is *Christ in you, the hope of glory*.⁵⁷” For if man will not nourish the seed of life through repentance and baptism, “taking upon them the name of Jesus Christ, having a determination to serve Him to the end, and truly manifest by their works that they have received of the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins,⁵⁸” the fruit which they shall bring forth will be darkness. And thus they will receive of the same, for darkness cleaves unto darkness. “Wherefore I beseech you, brethren, that ye should search *diligently* in the light of Christ, that ye may know good from evil; and if ye will lay hold upon every good thing, and condemn it not, ye *certainly* will be a child of Christ.⁵⁹”

⁵⁴ 1 John 3:23-24, 1 John 4:12-17 and Philippians 1:6

⁵⁵ DC 85:6

⁵⁶ Moroni 10:27 and 29-30

⁵⁷ Colossians 1:27

⁵⁸ DC 17:7c-d

⁵⁹ Moroni 7:18

Life after Death

Only by searching in the light of Jesus Christ, can man discover the well of salvation hidden within their soul, which is made alive through the testimony of Christ the Lord. For as mankind responds to the love of God through obedience to His commandments, the testimony of the Savior begins to grow brighter and brighter, all the while the Holy Spirit, which is given to every soul and which quickeneth all things, springs forth unto everlasting life. However, if men harden their hearts and choose a lesser light, then they will be resurrected and restored to the same. It is through the conditions of their heart and their faith in the Son of God that the seed of life within mankind is nourished, and thus mankind brings forth fruit either unto eternal life or everlasting woe according to their agency.

“Behold, a sower went forth to sow. And when he sowed, some seeds fell by *the wayside*, and the fowls came and devoured them up. Some fell upon *stony places*, where they had not much earth; and forthwith they sprung up; and when the sun was up, they were scorched, because they had no deepness of earth; and because they had no root, they withered away. And some fell *among thorns*, and the thorns sprung up and choked them. But others fell into *good ground*, and brought forth fruit; some an hundred-fold, some sixty-fold, and some thirty-fold. Who hath ears to hear, *let him hear*.⁶⁰”

“When any one heareth the *word of the kingdom*, and understandeth not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown *in his heart*; this is he who received seed by *the wayside*. But he that received the seed into *stony places*, the same is he that heareth the word and readily with joy receiveth it, yet he hath *not root in himself*, and endureth but for a while; for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. He also who received seed *among the thorns*, is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world and the deceitfulness of riches, *choke the word*, and he becometh unfruitful. But he that received seed into the *good ground*, is he that heareth the word and *understandeth and endureth*; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundred-fold, some sixty, and some thirty.⁶¹”

In the parable of the sower, the seed is the Record of Heaven, the Word of God, while the ground is the heart of men. Thus the seed of life springs forth and is either caught away, scorched, choked, or bears forth good fruit according to the condition of the heart. Only unto those who have a broken heart and a contrite spirit are the ends of the law answered. For “He [Jesus Christ] shall come into the world to redeem *His* people; and He shall take upon Him the transgressions of *those who believe* on His name; and these are they that shall have eternal life, and salvation cometh to *none else*; therefore the wicked remain as though there had been *no* redemption made, except it be the loosing of the bands of death; for behold, the day cometh that all shall rise from the dead and stand before God, and be judged according to their works.⁶²” Continue to read from eighth chapter of Alma:

8:99 Now there is a death which is called a temporal death; and the death of Christ ***shall loose*** the bands of this temporal death, that all shall be raised from this temporal death; **8:100** The spirit and the body shall be ***reunited again***, in its perfect form; both limb and joint shall be

⁶⁰ Matthew 13:3-7

⁶¹ Matthew 13:18-21

⁶² Alma 8:96-98

restored to its proper frame, even as we now are at this time; **8:101** And we shall be brought to stand before God, knowing even as we know now, and have a bright recollection of all our guilt.

8:102 Now this restoration shall come to all, both old and young, both bond and free, both male and female, both the wicked and the righteous; **8:103** And even there shall not so much as a hair of their heads be lost; but all things shall be restored to its perfect frame, as it is now, or in the body, **8:104** And shall be brought and be arraigned before the bar of Christ the Son, and God the Father, and the Holy Spirit, which is one eternal God, to be judged according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil.

8:105 Now behold I have spoken unto you concerning the death of the mortal body, and also concerning the resurrection of the mortal body. **8:106** I say unto you, that this mortal body is raised to an immortal body; that is from death; even from the first death, unto life, that they can die *no more*; their spirits uniting with their bodies, *never* to be divided; **8:107** Thus the whole becoming spiritual and immortal, that they can no more see corruption [death].

The state of the Soul between Death and the Resurrection

The temporal death which will pass upon all men (save those who will be twinkled at the time of Christ's return) is part of God's merciful plan for that which is sown a natural body cannot be quickened except it dies. A seed of grain must be sown into the earth and die before it can become wheat. The same is true for the spirits of men, as they must be sown into the world and receive a temporal body and once they die, "then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."⁶³ For "the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body; yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life."⁶⁴ It is here that the spirits of men are consigned to one of four holding places (Paradise, Prison, Hell, Outer Darkness) to wait until their appointed time when their spirit and their body shall be reunited again either in the resurrection of the just or the resurrection of the unjust.

"Behold, there is a time appointed that all shall come forth from the dead. Now when this time cometh, no one knows; but God knoweth the time which is appointed. Now whether there shall be one time, or a second time, or a third time, that men shall come forth from the dead, it mattereth not; for God knoweth all these things; and it sufficeth me to know that this is the case; that there is a time appointed that all shall rise from the dead. Now there must needs be a space betwixt the time of death, and the time of the resurrection. And now I would inquire what becometh of the souls of men, from this time of death, to the time appointed for the resurrection? Now whether there is more than one time appointed for men to rise, it mattereth not: for all do not die at once: and this mattereth not; all is as one day, with God; and time only is measured unto men; therefore there is a time appointed unto men, that they shall rise from the dead; and there is a space between the time of death and the resurrection."⁶⁵ Just as it takes time for a seed of grain to become a seedling and for a seedling to become a plant, there is time between the death of man and the resurrection of man.

⁶³ Ecclesiastes 12:7

⁶⁴ Alma 19:43

⁶⁵ Alma 19:33-39

“Now concerning the state of the soul *between* death and the resurrection...the spirits of all men, as soon as they are departed from this mortal body; yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass that the spirits of those who are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called *paradise*; a state of rest; a state of peace, where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, etc. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of the wicked, yea, who are evil; for behold, they have no part nor portion of the Spirit of the Lord: for behold they choose evil works, rather than good: therefore the spirit of the devil did enter into them, and *take possession of their house*; and these shall be cast out into *outer darkness*; there shall be weeping, and wailing and gnashing of teeth; and this because of their own iniquity; being led captive by the will of the devil. Now this is the state of the souls of the wicked; yea, in darkness, and a state of awful, fearful, looking for, of the fiery indignation of the wrath of God upon them; thus they remain in this state, as well as the righteous in paradise, *until* the time of their resurrection.⁶⁶”

While Paradise is represented as the good ground in the parable of the sower and Outer Darkness is signified as the wayside, there are two other conditions mentioned in the parable. Those being the stony places, which represents Hell, and the place among the thorns, which is the Prison. There must needs be four places as there are more than two classifications of people, namely the righteous and the wicked, for there are many souls who have been born into the world who have never received the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Therefore, there must be a place prepared for each condition, for “intelligence cleaveth unto intelligence; wisdom receiveth wisdom; truth embraceth truth; virtue loveth virtue; light cleaveth unto light.⁶⁷”

Those spirits of men whose hearts were hardened against the testimony and truth of Jesus Christ are those “who are liars, and sorcerers, and adulterers, and whoremongers, and whosoever loves and makes a lie; these are they who suffer the wrath of God on the earth; these are they who suffer the vengeance of eternal fire; these are they who are cast down to *hell* and suffer the wrath of Almighty God *until* the fullness of times, when Christ shall have subdued all enemies under His feet, and shall have perfected His work, when He shall deliver up the kingdom and present it unto the Father spotless...these are they who *received not* the gospel of Christ, neither the testimony of Jesus; these are they who *deny not* the Holy Spirit; these are they who are thrust down to *hell*; these are they who shall not be redeemed from the Devil, until the last resurrection, until the Lord, even Christ the Lamb, shall have finished His work.⁶⁸” Those spirits who are consigned to Hell did not receive the Gospel or deny the Holy Spirit, but they did live against the law of God hidden within every soul which testifies of the basic principles of right and wrong. Although they did not reject the pure light of Christ which lighteth every soul that comes into the world, they did not search for it either.

Similar to those spirits who are consigned to Hell, those spirits who are kept in Prison are those who died without the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The difference between these two conditions however is that

⁶⁶ Alma 19:42-47

⁶⁷ DC 85:10a

⁶⁸ DC 76:7o-r and 7b-e

those who receive the Prison House did not strive against the basic principles of good and evil. Instead “these are they who are *honorable* men of the earth, who were *blinded* by the craftiness of men...Behold, these are they who died without law; and also they who are the spirits of men kept in prison, whom the Son visited, and preached the gospel unto them, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, who received not the testimony of Jesus *in the flesh*, but afterwards *received it*.⁶⁹” It is impossible for the children of men who never received the opportunity to hear the Gospel to be judged in the same manner as those who have learned of Christ. For “where there is no law given there is *no punishment*; and where there is no punishment, there is *no condemnation*; and where there is no condemnation, the mercies of the Holy One of Israel *have claim* upon them, because of the atonement: for they are delivered by the power of Him: for the atonement satisfieth the demands of His justice upon all those who *have not* the law given to them, that they are delivered from that awful monster, death and hell, and the devil, and the lake of fire and brimstone, which is endless torment; and they are *restored* to that God who gave them breath, which is the Holy One of Israel.⁷⁰”

Instead, those individuals who die without the law “are a law *unto themselves*; which show the work of the law written *in their hearts*, their *conscience* also bearing witness, and their thoughts meanwhile *accusing* or else *excusing* one another.⁷¹” The conscience of mankind, which is the Spirit of Christ which dwells in every soul, testifies to them of right and wrong and beareth witness to the Father and the Son concerning the condition of their hearts. “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities; for we know not what we should pray for as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And He that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because He maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.⁷²” The Prison House is not only for those who died without the law however, it is also for those who did not live valiant in their testimony. In other words, while these might have known something of Jesus Christ, they did not apply it within their life by loving others as He loved them, and thus they do not truly know the Son of God. And if man does not know Jesus Christ, they cannot know God the Father and be received into a state of Paradise.

Final Judgment

Just as all men are not born, die, nor resurrected all at once, there must be a place or state where the souls of men await for their appointed time to be born as well as resurrected. Thus “there must needs be a space betwixt the time of death, and the time of the resurrection.⁷³” However, there will come a time when the bodies of all men shall come forth from the grave and be reunited with their spirits, either in the resurrection of the just when Jesus Christ will return and initiate the millennial reign, or the resurrection of the unjust when Satan shall be loosed for a little season. And then shall the final and eternal judgment of man come to pass.

⁶⁹ DC 76:6d and 6c

⁷⁰ 2 Nephi 6:51-55

⁷¹ Romans 2:14-15

⁷² Romans 8:26-27

⁷³ Alma 19:36

“I am Alpha and Omega, Christ the Lord; yea, even I am He, the beginning and the end, the Redeemer of the world: I having accomplished and finished the will of Him whose I am, even the Father, concerning me; having done this, that I might subdue all things unto myself; retaining all power, even to the destroying of Satan and his works at the end of the world, and the last great day of judgment, which I shall pass upon the inhabitants thereof, judging every man *according to his works*, and the deeds which he has done. And surely every man must repent or suffer, for I God am endless; wherefore, I revoke not the judgments which I shall pass, but woes shall go forth, weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth; yea, to those who are found on my left hand; nevertheless, it is not written that there shall be no end to this torment; but it is written endless torment.⁷⁴”

“Again, it is written eternal damnation; wherefore it is more express than other scriptures, that it might *work upon the hearts* of the children of men, altogether for my name's glory; wherefore, I will explain unto you this *mystery*, for it is meet unto you to know even as mine apostles. I speak unto you that are chosen in this thing, even as one, that you may enter into my rest; for, behold, the mystery of godliness, how great is it? For, behold, I am endless, and the punishment which is given from my hand is endless punishment, for Endless is my name; wherefore--Eternal punishment is God's punishment. Endless punishment is God's punishment...For, behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer, if they would repent; but if they would not repent, they must suffer even as I; which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit, and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink; nevertheless, glory be to the Father, and I partook and finished my preparations unto the children of men.⁷⁵”

By the atonement and redemption of man which comes through Christ our Lord, all of the spirits and bodies of men, whether they are righteous or wicked, will be reunited and brought to stand before the great judgment bar of God. Jesus said, “Marvel not at this; for the hour is coming, in the which all who are in their graves shall hear his voice. And shall come forth; they who have done good, in the *resurrection of the just*; and they who have done evil, in the *resurrection of the unjust*.⁷⁶” And every soul will be restored to their proper order and frame, whether it be Celestial, Terrestrial, Telestial, or Outer Darkness, according to how they nourished the seed of life and the testimony of Jesus Christ within them. Mankind will be restored according to the principles of the law by which they lived and according to the fruits of their labor or works. Thus if they chose to cleave unto Celestial principles they will be restored to a Celestial Kingdom.

“I say unto thee...that the plan of restoration is requisite with the justice of God; for it is requisite that all things should be restored to their proper order. Behold it is requisite and just, according to the power and resurrection of Christ, that the soul of man should be restored to its body, and that every part of the body should be restored to itself. And it is requisite with the justice of God, that men should be judged according to their works; and if their works were good in this life, and the *desires of their hearts* were good, that they should also, at the last day, be restored unto that which is good; and if their works are

⁷⁴ DC 18:1

⁷⁵ DC 18:2a-e and h-j

⁷⁶ John 5:28-29

evil, they shall be restored unto him for evil: therefore, all things shall be restored to their proper order; everything to its natural frame; mortality raised to immortality; corruption to incorruption; raised to endless happiness, to inherit the kingdom of God, or to endless misery, to inherit the kingdom of the devil; the one on the one hand, the other on the other; the one raised to happiness, according to his desires of happiness; or good, according to his desires of good; and the other to evil, according to his desires of evil; for as he has desired to do evil all the day long, even so shall he have his reward of evil, when the night cometh. And so it is on the other hand. If he hath repented of his sins, and desired righteousness until the end of his days, even so shall he be rewarded unto righteousness.⁷⁷

“Do not suppose, because it has been spoken concerning restoration, that ye shall be restored from sin to happiness. Behold, I say unto you, wickedness never was happiness. And now...all men that are in a state of nature, or I would say, in a carnal state, are in the gall of bitterness, and in the bonds of iniquity; they are without God in the world, and they have gone contrary to the nature of God; therefore they are in a state contrary to the nature of happiness. And now behold, is the meaning of the word restoration, to take a thing of a natural state, and place it in an unnatural state, or to place it in a state opposite to its nature? O...this is not the case; but the meaning of the word restoration, is to bring back again evil for evil, or carnal for carnal, or devilish for devilish; good for that which is good; righteous for that which is righteous; just for that which is just; merciful for that which is merciful; therefore...see that ye are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things, then shall ye receive your reward; yea, ye shall have mercy restored unto you again; ye shall have justice restored unto you again; ye shall have a righteous judgment restored unto you again; and ye shall have good rewarded unto you again; for that which ye do send out, shall return unto you again, and be restored; therefore the word restoration, more fully condemneth the sinner, and justifieth him not at all.⁷⁸”

The children of men will be eternally judged at that great and last day according to their desires and the condition of their hearts, or in other words, according to those principles that they clung to while in the flesh. Thereby the souls of men will be restored to one of four bodies similar to the parable of the sower. Those men who fell by the wayside are those who willfully rebelled against God and denied the Holy Ghost after having received it, thus the spirits who were consigned to Outer Darkness will be restored to a body that is not a body of glory. These are the “only ones on whom the second death shall have any power; yea, verily, the only ones who shall not be redeemed in the due time of the Lord, after the sufferings of His wrath...wherefore He saves all except them; they shall go away into everlasting punishment, which is endless punishment, which is eternal punishment, to reign with the Devil and his angels in eternity, where their worm dieth not and the fire is not quenched, which is their torment, and the end thereof, neither the place thereof, nor their torment, no man knows.”⁷⁹

Those men whose hearts were hardened like a stone, did not allow the Record of Heaven to grow and to spring forth within them through truth and good works. These men did not deny the Holy Ghost, but

⁷⁷ Alma 19:64-69

⁷⁸ Alma 19:73-80

⁷⁹ DC 76:4e and 4i

rejected the testimony of Jesus Christ and desired to do that which was opposite to the conscience given to all men by the power of the Spirit. These are they who were consigned to Hell. “These are they who receive not of His fullness in the eternal world, but of the Holy Spirit through the ministration of the terrestrial; and the terrestrial through the ministration of the celestial: and also the telestial receive it of the administering of angels, who are appointed to minister for them, or who are appointed to be ministering spirits for them, for they shall be heirs of salvation. And thus we saw in the heavenly vision, the glory of the telestial which surpasses all understanding; and no man knows it except him to whom God has revealed it.⁸⁰”

The men whose hearts were among the thorns so that the Word of God was choked by the cares of the world, are those who were either not valiant in their testimony of the Master or those who were the honorable men of the earth and were blinded and deceived by the craftiness of men. These men lived rightly according to the testimony in their heart but did not set their affections on the things of heaven. Thereby they had a form of godliness but denied the power thereof and were the spirits of men consigned to the Prison, “wherefore they obtained not the crown over the Kingdom of our God.⁸¹”

The children of men whose hearts received the Word with joy, who strove to be pure even as Christ is pure and received His image in their countenance, are those who are restored to receive a body Celestial even as Jesus our Lord. These men obeyed the Gospel of Jesus Christ once they received it and discovered the mystery of Christ within them, enduring unto the end. These are the spirits who were received into a state of Paradise. “These shall dwell in the presence of God and his Christ for ever and ever: these are they whom He shall bring with Him, when He shall come in the clouds of heaven, to reign on the earth over His people; these are they who shall have part in the first resurrection; these are they who shall come forth in the resurrection of the just; these are they who are come unto Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly place, the holiest of all; these are they who have come to an innumerable company of angels; to the general assembly and church of Enoch, and of the Firstborn; these are they whose names are written in heaven, where God and Christ are the judge of all; these are they who are just men made perfect through Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, who wrought out this perfect atonement through the shedding of His own blood; these are they whose bodies are celestial, whose glory is that of the sun, even the glory of God the highest of all; whose glory the sun of the firmament is written of as being typical.⁸²”

The Mystery is Christ in You

“It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.⁸³” Within this verse is a great mystery and yet also a profound truth, for contained within the soul of every man and woman is the Record of Heaven and the testimony of the Only Begotten Son of God, who is full of mercy

⁸⁰ DC 76:7f-g

⁸¹ DC 76:6g

⁸² DC 76:5j-r

⁸³ Proverbs 25:2

and truth. Without this well of salvation planted within every heart there would be no life or purpose which would frustrate God's great plan of happiness.

The Almighty God is a God of love because He chooses to be so, and thus He is restored to who He is, which is love. There is no greater mystery other than the love of God. However, how can mankind know the light of this mystery and receive a fullness of joy save they have intelligence, and how can they have intelligence without opposition; which opposition bringeth transgression and transgression bringeth death? Nevertheless, because of death, the light of life entered into the world by the Son of God so that man might see that the power of salvation and the gift of eternal life abides within them. And if mankind will search diligently in the light, the testimony of the Lord Jesus will bear record of the pure love God to their soul, thereby the seed of life will be quickened and spring forth unto everlasting life. As the light of the love of God shines brighter and brighter in the face of Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Ghost, so too does our joy grow more and more full, thus changing the selfish heart of man into a loving one. It is one thing to receive or learn of the love of God through the life of Jesus Christ, and it is something else entirely to become alive with that love and thereby in turn love others even as Jesus loves us. Amen.